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(b) if so, what action has so far been taken on it; and

(c) if action has been taken, what is the stage at which the enquiry stands?

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) & (c) The matter is under examination."

Bridge over Kadiangad river, North Malabar.

* 567 Q.—SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the public of Perambra and its surrounding villages in North Malabar to construct a bridge over Kadiangad river on Kuttiady-Perambra road; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (a) No.

" (b) Does not arise."

Alleged lathi charge by police at Virudunagar on 14th March 1953.

* 568 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether there was a lathi charge on the people by the police on 14th March 1953 at Virudunagar in connexion with Meenambikai Motor Strike; if so, what were the reasons for the lathi charge?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The strikers and their friends were physically obstructing those who were taking out buses. They were duly warned not to indulge in such illegal obstruction. They dispersed when they saw that the police were ready for action. There was no lathi charge."

Exploitation of the iron ore in Salem district.

* 569 Q.—SRI M. P. SUBRAMANYAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether there is any proposal at present before the Government to exploit the iron ore in Salem district?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, Sir. The economic feasibility of setting up an iron and steel plant utilizing Salem iron ores and lignite deposits of South Arcot district is under the consideration of the Government."

Supply of power from Machkund Project.

* 570 Q.—SRI G. LATCHANNA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the total amount of energy that will be generated in Machkund and how much of its power will be distributed in the first stage and to which parts; and

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(b) whether the Government are proposing to give top priority to the economically backward districts of Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam in the matter of supply of power in the first stage itself?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given on 25th November 1952 to the starred question No. 137. Execution of schemes for extension of electricity will depend on the availability of funds including local contributions forthcoming."

Investigation about the death of one Puthiyapurayil Kannan of Chirakkal taluk.

* 571 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have received in the first quarter of 1952 any representation from the residents of Malappattam village in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, regarding the failure of the police to make satisfactory investigation into the death of one Puthiyapurayil Kannan, and if so, what action was taken?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" A petition was received in June 1952 from certain residents of Malapattam village in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, alleging that Puthiyapurayil Kannan had been murdered. The petition was transferred to the Inspector-General of Police, and elaborate enquiries were made by the police. They were however unable to obtain any clue as to the cause of the death. The case was therefore treated as undetectable."

Election to the Vanapamula Panchayat, Gudivada taluk.

* 572 Q.—SRI K. RAJAGOPALA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the election for the panchayat of Vanapamula, Gudivada taluk, Krishna district, was scheduled to take place on the 31st March 1953;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government have stayed the conduct of elections by a telegraphic order, and if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government received any representation to stay the elections, if so, who are the petitioners; and on what date it was received; and

(d) whether the Government will place a copy of it on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (a) The election to the panchayat was scheduled to take place on the 30th March 1953.

" (b) & (c) Yes. A representation was received on the 28th March 1953 from one Sri V. Narasiah on behalf of a section of the voters of the village of Vanapamula, to the effect that